

BACK TO THE FUTURE

the next 100 years

2018 Fall Conference



Best Western Ramkota—Aberdeen, SD
October 9-11, 2018

RAMKOTA PROPERTY MAP

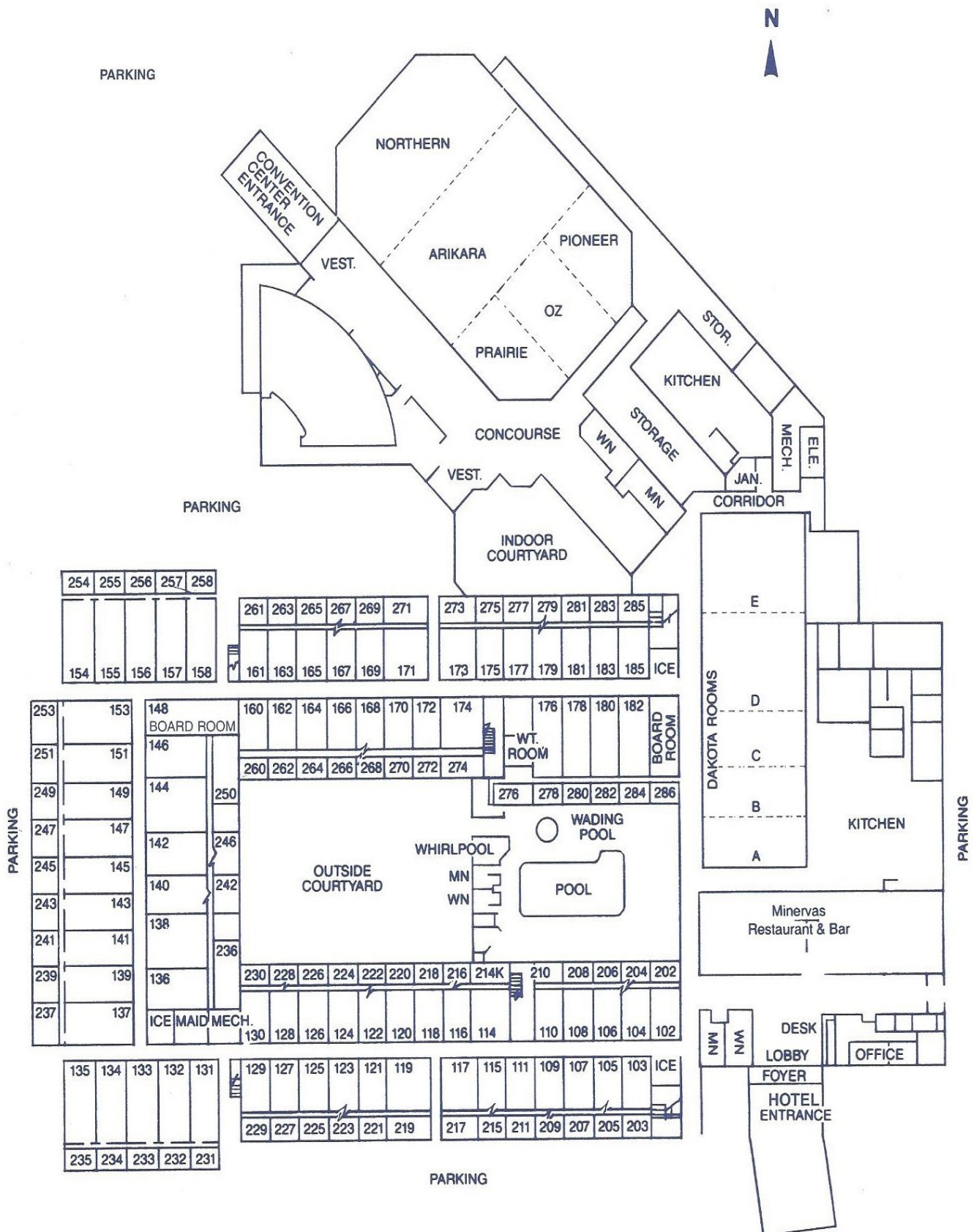


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda at a Glance	4-6
Conference Partners.	7
Conference Special Events.	8-9
Lyft Instructions	10
Booths/Vendors.	11
Session Descriptions	12-20
Presenter Biographies	22-27

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018

Time	Activity			
10:00 am Lobby	Fall Conference Registration Opens			
1:00-1:30 pm Northern & Arikara	Presentation of Colors – Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post #24 National Anthem - Jessica Rohrbach Welcome from DHS Secretary, Gloria Pearson			
1:30-3:00 pm Northern & Arikara	We've Come a Long Way—A Look at our Efforts Then, Now, & Into the Future John Evans			
3:00-3:30 pm Lobby	Break			
3:30-5:00 pm <u>Rooms</u>	Breakout Sessions			
	Dakota A & B	Dakota C & D	Dakota E	Amphitheater
	Energizing Pre-ETS to Enhance Successful Post-School Outcomes TSLP	The Ethics of Helping: Boundaries and Relationships Ruth Yeo Peterman	Your Money, Your Goals, Financial Empowerment Tool Kit Barry Gravatt	Engaging a Future Employer & Business Relationship—Are You Ready? John Evans
5:00-6:30 pm Dakota C & D	RehabACTION Meeting			
7:00-9:00 pm Northern & Arikara	Social & Magic Joe			



RehabACTION Membership DRAWING

- ☐ To win this Amazon Echo Show please purchase or renew your membership.
- ☐ Information available at the registration table.
- ☐ You don't need to be present to win, but you must be a RehabACTION member.

echo show

Now Alexa can show you things



AGENDA AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018

Time	Activity			
7:30-8:30 am Lobby	Refreshments & Booths Setup			
8:30-10:00 am Northern & Arikara	Where we've Been, Where we are Now, Where do we go from Here Dr. Richard Luecking			
10:00-10:30 am Lobby	Break			
10:30 am-Noon	Breakout Sessions			
<u>Rooms</u>	Dakota A & B	Dakota C & D	Dakota E	Amphitheater
	Home Visitor Safety Sandy Neyhart & Jennifer Geuther	Positive Behavioral Supports: Designing Work that Works Beth Keeton	Using Labor Market Information in Career Counseling Melodee Lane	Taking Discovery to the Next Level Dr. Richard Luecking
Noon-1:30 pm Northern & Arikara	Luncheon Vision 2020 Steve Wooderson			
1:30-3:00 pm	Breakout Sessions			
<u>Rooms</u>	Dakota A & B	Dakota C & D	Dakota E	Amphitheater
		Customized Job Development: Breaking out of the Big Box Beth Keeton	Trauma Informed Care Ruth Yeo Peterman	Seamless Transition for Youth with Disabilities Dr. Richard Luecking
3:00-3:30 pm Lobby	Break Visit the booths to see if you are a door prize winner!			
3:30-5:00 pm	Breakout Sessions			
<u>Rooms</u>	Dakota A & B	Dakota C & D	Dakota E	Amphitheater
	Expanding Apprenticeships for Individuals with Disabilities Rebecca Long	The Important Role of the VR Counselor Steve Wooderson	Gender & Sexuality Diversity in Youth Ruth Yeo Peterman	Self-Employment: Why Not Start at the Top? Beth Keeton
5:00 pm	Booth Tear Down			
6:00-9:00 pm Court Yard Area	Social			

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018

Time	Activity			
7:00-8:00 am Lobby	Refreshments			
8:00-9:30 am <u>Rooms</u>	Breakout Sessions			
	Dakota A & B	Dakota C & D	Dakota E	Amphitheater
	LYFT Employer and Transportation Provider Dan Richardt & Ronda Williams	Students with Disabilities & Social Security Barry Gravatt, Rhonda Erickson, and Carol Ruddell	Vocational Assessments Linda Lockner & Ann Fortin	Programs for Students with Disabilities on College Campuses Jordan Schuh & Aberdeen School
9:30-9:45 am Lobby	Break			
9:45-11:00 am Northern & Arikara	Turning Your Demons into Diamonds Spencer Beach			
11:00-11:15 am Northern & Arikara	Closing Comments from DLR, Kendra Ringstmeyer			
11:15-Noon Northern & Arikara	DRS Staff Meeting (agency staff only)			
11:15-Noon Dakota E	SBVI Staff Meeting (agency staff only)			
12:30-3:00 pm Amphitheater	DLR Staff meeting (agency staff only)			



*Great appreciation goes out to all the people who helped
organize this year's conference!*

MANY THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS AND CO-SPONSORS

- ♦ Aberdeen School District
- ♦ Aberdeen Project SEARCH Students
- ♦ Aspire Inc.
- ♦ Black Hills Special Services Cooperative
- ♦ Board of Vocational Rehabilitation
- ♦ Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ♦ SD Council on Developmental Disabilities
- ♦ SD Department of Labor & Regulation
- ♦ SD Division of Developmental Disabilities
- ♦ SD Division of Rehabilitation Services
- ♦ SD Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ♦ SD RehabACTion
- ♦ Statewide Independent Living Council
- ♦ Transition Services Liaison Project



A special thank you to
Creative Expressions
for the beautiful table
centerpieces!



Another special thank you to
the Project SEARCH
students from Aberdeen for
all their hard work during this
year's conference!

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS/INFORMATION

Conference Opening:

- ♦ Presentation of Colors by Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post #24
- ♦ National Anthem by Jessica Rohrbach

Annual RehabACTion Meeting at 5:00 pm Tuesday, October 9th — Dakota C & D

- ♦ Election of Officers
- ♦ Certification Awards

Magic Joe - Tuesday, October 9th—7:00 pm

Booths/Vendors - Wednesday, October 10th

National Disability Employment Awareness Month event - Thursday, October 11th—Northern & Arikara

- ♦ Spencer Beach — Turning Your Demons into Diamonds

Continuing Education Credits

Continuing Education Credits will be provided through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification.

Certificate of Attendance

Certificate of attendance sheets are available at the registration table for CESP and other professional organizations. Following each session attended, see the room moderator to have attendance stamped. Return the attendance sheet to the registration table at the end of the conference and certificates of attendance will then be mailed to you for each session in which attendance was stamped.

Conference Evaluation

Participant input on the 2018 Fall Conference presentations and presenters helps the planning committee improve the quality of future training sessions. The conference evaluation can be completed on-line: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018FallConference> or WWW.SDRehabACTion.org. Conference participants will also receive an e-mail following the conference with the evaluation link. The conference program provides a section called "Evaluation Summary" underneath each presentation to write notes about the presentation and presenter. Referring to these notes will be helpful when completing the conference evaluation.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS



Presentation of Colors is being done by the Sidney L. Smith American Legion Post #24 of Aberdeen.

The presentation of colors is a ceremony presenting a flag. The "colors" refer to a flag. A color guard, consisting of two honor guards and two flag bearers, presents the colors. A sergeant-at-arms dictates the orders during the ceremony. Proper respect should be given to the colors at all times during the ceremony.

The National Anthem will be sung by Jessica Rohrbach. Jessica attended school at Central High School in Aberdeen and is currently a student at the Transition Learning Community (TLC) program on NSU campus.



She was the CHS Homecoming Queen in 2017! Jessica participates in many Special Olympic sports. Through the Project Skills program, Jessica has had successful work experience opportunities at Teacher's Pet and Farmer's Wife Boutique.



Magic Joe

The art of magic has been a passion of Joe's ever since he saw his first magic show at the young age of five. This fueled his love for the ancient art, and by ten years old, he was performing all around his home state of South Dakota. Over the years, he has befriended numerous famous magicians and has twice had the privilege of being invited to the world famous Academy of Magical Arts in Hollywood, CA (aka the Magic Castle). As an active member of the Society of American Magicians and over 20 years of performing experience, he has developed a show that is unique, comical, and entertaining for all ages.

As a young magician, his first passion was close-up and walk-around magic. At an early age, he separated himself from other magicians by developing a stage show that was both big and interactive. Audience participation directs each show and allows for a continuously changing theatrical experience.

Do You Need A Ride?



The Fall Conference has purchased rides for attendees to use for transportation needs between the Aberdeen Best Western and other motels. To utilize this free service, you must have the Lyft app on your phone. To schedule a ride, select Promos and enter the code **2018FALLCONF**. This will allow you to be picked up or dropped off at the Aberdeen Best Western — 1400 8th Avenue NW, Aberdeen only during the conference dates/times.

Stop at the Registration Table if you need Assistance

Find “South Dakota RehabACTION” on Facebook to



the fun of this year's conference!



All door prize winners will be announced at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, October 10th. So, head back to the vendor booths to see if you've won! You must be present to win.

Any prizes not collected by 5:00 pm will be drawn again during the Thursday morning session.

BOOTHS / VENDORS

On **Wednesday, October 10th**, agencies will have vendor booths in the lobby. Each vendor is donating door prizes that they will draw for in the afternoon. Be sure to visit each vendor for a chance to win a door prize.

Must be present to win.

- ♦ Business Resource Network
- ♦ Creative Expressions
- ♦ DakotaLink
- ♦ Disability Rights South Dakota (Client Assistance Program)
- ♦ Division of Developmental Disabilities
- ♦ Division of Long Term Services and Supports
- ♦ Division of Rehabilitation Services
- ♦ Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ♦ Independent Living Choices
- ♦ National Farmworker Jobs Program
- ♦ Northern State University
- ♦ Project SEARCH (Aberdeen School District)
- ♦ Resources for Human Development
- ♦ South Dakota Association for Lifelong Learning
- ♦ South Dakota Benefits Specialist Network
- ♦ South Dakota Department of Labor & Regulation
- ♦ South Dakota Parent Connection
- ♦ South Dakota RehabACTion
- ♦ South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- ♦ Supporting Families Community of Practice State Team
- ♦ Transition Services Liaison Project
- ♦ USD Center for Disabilities
- ♦ Western Resources for Independent Living

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Tuesday, October 9th

1:30 pm-3:00 pm General Session

We've Come a Long Way—A Look at Our Efforts Then, Now & Into the Future

John Evans

Traveling back through the decades - to plan ahead for the future - this keynote presentation will provide the audience with a personal/professional perspective of the constantly changing landscape in the employment of people with disabilities, along with future challenges and opportunities for increasing their participation within the nation's labor force.

Evaluation Summary

3:30 pm-5:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Energizing Pre-ETS to Enhance Successful Post-School Outcomes

TSLP

With the enactment of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the implementation of pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS), it is clear that the federal government is challenging us to "look back to the future" and the research-based predictors of successful post-school outcomes when providing transition services. In this interactive session, we will transform the 1.21 gigawatts of energy needed for the flux capacitor (which makes time travel possible), into energizing the five areas of Pre-ETS and to enhance the future of quality post-school outcomes for our youth. We will review the five areas of Pre-ETS and challenge the audience to identify innovative and creative techniques in providing these services. The goal of the session will be for the participants to generate a list of various approaches (create the energy sources needed) that can make the Pre-ETS more functional and teacher friendly.

Evaluation Summary

The Ethics of Helping; Boundaries and Relationship

**Ruth Yeo
Peterman**

Ethics are at the heart of competent and effective practice for anyone in the helping field. It is very common for anyone working in the social services field to encounter ethical dilemmas. This session is designed to give individuals and organizations an opportunity to review common principles and standards for ethical practice that are relevant for their settings. Participants will leave with a stronger awareness of their own ethical base.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Tuesday, October 9th (cont.)

3:30 pm-5:00 pm **Breakout Sessions (cont.)**

Your Money, Your Goals, Financial Empowerment Toolkit

Barry Gravatt

The Your Money, Your Goals toolkit brings together information, tools, and links to other resources you can use to help people build skills in managing money, credit, debt, and financial products. This can help them begin to build financial stability in their lives. Having all these resources in one place can make it easier for you to bring financial empowerment into your conversations.

Evaluation Summary

Engaging a Future Employer & Business Relationship—Are You Ready?

John Evans

This breakout is a participatory session designed to help the audience identify methods for conducting targeted outreach and needs assessments based on caseload or labor market demands; linking disability related employment resources for technical assistance; and implementing proven strategies for developing and maintaining working relationships with a broad range of stakeholders representing the employer and business community.

Evaluation Summary



**Wait a minute, Doc.
Are you telling me
that you built a
time machine... out
of DeLorean?!**

Thank you to Jerry Brick with Northstar Energy/Brick Transport
for bringing the DeLorean to the conference!

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Wednesday, October 10th

8:30 am-10:00 am

General Session

**Where we've Been, Where we are Now,
Where do we go from Here**

Dr. Richard Luecking

Presumed employability is an underpinning of contemporary disability employment policy. That is, there should be a job for everyone who wants one, regardless of disability, level of support, or economic circumstances. WIOA, especially its Pre-ETS provision, can be a game changer in the quest to improve employment success of individuals with disabilities. This presentation will feature policies and practices that have lead up its implementation, how it is currently affecting practice, and most importantly, where it can lead us if we use it correctly.

Evaluation Summary



10:30 am-Noon

Breakout Sessions

Home Visitor Safety

**Sandy Neyhart &
Jennifer Geuther**

Safety for staff who conduct home visits is a top priority for any agency. By attending this presentation on home visitor safety, you will experience a combination of common-sense ideas and agency practices along with practical suggestions to increase your awareness for safety when you are traveling to conduct home visits, while you are in the homes of the people you serve, and places in between. The presentation will include aspects of safety such as health hazards in the home, what to do when there are insects or rodents, managing or responding to escalating emotions, and managing pets that are friendly (or not so friendly).

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Wednesday, October 10th (cont.)

10:30 am-Noon

Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Positive Behavioral Supports: Designing Work that Works

Beth Keeton

Supporting individuals to grow high-quality careers goes beyond simply securing a job and requires employment service professionals to teach a variety complex skills and tasks in ways that align with both the specific business culture and the unique learning style of the new employee. Quality behavioral supports go far beyond simply “eliminating” challenging behaviors when they occur and instead provide a mechanism for preventing the challenging behaviors altogether through high-quality workplace design and/or teaching more effective and appropriate alternatives. Join us for a lively discussion on the role of PBS in the workplace and learn how they can enhance workplace success and independence- and make you a better job coach!

Evaluation Summary

Using Labor Market Information in Career Counseling

Melodee Lane

This presentation will provide the audience a wealth of information on occupational data and tools available from the Department of Labor and Regulation’s Labor Market Information Center. This information is valuable for helping your clients make informed job and career decisions. Get “insider tips” for using online resources such as the virtual labor market data system and see specific examples of how labor market data can be applied to help those you serve.

Evaluation Summary

Taking Discovery to the Next Level

Dr. Richard Luecking

Thorough processes for identifying the preferences, skills, and support needs of job seekers are essential for job development. These processes are especially important for individuals with significant support needs. But efforts to make employment happen cannot stop there. Activities such as Discovery and Career Exploration are effective only when they are paired with strategies that put job seekers in touch with prospective employers and when used with proven job negotiation strategies. This session will feature such strategies and how they can complement Discovery so that the end result is competitive integrated employment.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Wednesday, October 10th (cont.)

Noon-1:30 pm

Luncheon

Vision 2020

Steve Wooderson

This presentation will provide the audience information on what is happening with disability services at a national level and in South Dakota. The Vision 2020 initiative is in recognition of the 100th year anniversary of the public Vocational Rehabilitation Program. This presentation will provide the audience with innovative practices to increase complete integrated employment in the next century.

Evaluation Summary



1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Customized Job Development: Breaking out of the Big Box

Beth Keeton

This interactive session kicks off the job development conversation on by exploring how the use of customized strategies can lead to better, more sustainable, higher-paying job outcomes in any community across the country. The session will cover the foundations of customized job development, including how it builds on key economic development strategies and leads to employer development beyond the "big box". Join us for a lively conversation on the current state of the states with job development- and where we can go next!

Evaluation Summary

Trauma Informed Care

**Ruth Yeo
Peterman**

Introduction to the basic concepts of trauma-informed work and how the expressive arts support trauma care through practices grounded in neuroscience. Learn how to provide trauma informed care for building resilience by focusing on the core components of safety, connection, calming, self and collective efficacy, and hope.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Wednesday, October 10th (cont.)

1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Seamless Transition for Youth with Disabilities

Dr. Richard Luecking

Wouldn't it be ideal if youth exit school with a job already in place? If the day after school exit looks the same as the day before: a job and supports to maintain employment? The good news is we know how to make this happen for all youth with disabilities. With actual examples and the latest professional consensus on what constitutes optimum transition service, this session will share why we should presume all youth can be employed, why we should expect that youth can make the seamless transition from school to a job and a clear career path, and how collaborations can make this happen.

Evaluation Summary

3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Breakout Sessions

Expanding Apprenticeship for Individuals with Disabilities

Rebecca Long

Apprenticeships offer a great opportunity to attract and develop all talent as part of an inclusive workforce.

Evaluation Summary

The Important Role of the VR Counselor

Steve Wooderson

This presentation is directed to Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors to understand the importance of their role in assisting individuals with disabilities to accomplish their employment goal. This session will provide information on how their positions are viewed at a national level and have opportunities to discuss improving the most important service, Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Wednesday, October 10th (cont.)

3:30 pm-5:00 pm **Breakout Sessions (cont.)**

Gender & Sexuality Diversity in Youth

**Ruth Yeo
Peterman**

Gender and sexuality are central features of identity development in adolescence. When a person's internal experience of gender and/or sexuality does not match what would typically be expected based on their external appearance, it can cause great distress and difficulty. This workshop will help caregivers learn how best to respond and support people in these situations. Participants will develop an awareness and understanding of what this experience can be like and how to create more accessible and welcoming environments for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, two-spirited, transsexual, queer, and questioning individuals.

Evaluation Summary

Self-Employment: Why Not Start at the Top?

Beth Keeton

Tremendous advances have been made in expanding employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Self-Employment — designing businesses that match the unique characteristics of the individual — continues to be among the most exciting and promising. This presentation highlights examples of successful business owners with disabilities throughout North America. Particular emphasis is placed on Discovery as the foundation for building the business concept, assessing profitability, and the role of the team in providing long-term supports. Join us to learn more about the "hows" and "whys" of self-employment and "when" it might be a good option to consider!

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Thursday, October 11th

8:00 am-9:30 am **Breakout Sessions**

LYFT Employer and Transportation Provider

**Dan Richardt &
Ronda Williams**

This presentation will discuss the opportunity of individuals being self-employed as a Lyft driver and Lyft's requirements of individuals being an independent contractor. The presenter who is a current Lyft driver will also provide strategies for individuals to maximize their employment earnings. This presentation will also provide information on how Lyft can be a service provider for individuals with disabilities who need transportation services.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Thursday, October 11th (cont.)

8:00 am-9:30 am

Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Students with Disabilities & Social Security

**Barry Gravatt,
Rhonda Erickson, &
Carol Ruddell**

Teenagers transitioning into adulthood have many challenges, not the least of which is Social Security. This session will cover the Social Security Work Incentives as they apply to Childhood beneficiaries, utilizing Section 301 with teens. And that when successfully navigated, results in youth becoming employed while maintaining the benefits and supports they need. Results of the ASPIRE/PROMISE research study will be included as evidence that intentional planning brings significant outcomes for the teen!

Evaluation Summary



Vocational Assessments

**Linda Lockner &
Ann Fortin**

This session will focus on vocational evaluations and their usefulness for the individual being assessed as well as counselors, teachers, family, and other members of the resource team. Types of vocational assessment will be discussed, including test batteries and individual instruments to measure specific aptitudes/abilities, vocational interests, personality traits, and work temperaments. The session will also provide information on career information systems and other resources helpful in formulating vocational goals and plans to achieve them.

Evaluation Summary

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS Thursday, October 11th (cont.)

8:00 am-9:30 am

Breakout Sessions (cont.)

Programs for Students with Disabilities on College Campuses

**Jordan Schuh &
Aberdeen School**

This presentation will highlight two types of programs on a community campus for students with disabilities. The Aberdeen School District has reinstated their Transition Learning Community program (TLC) at Northern State University where they provide transition classes for secondary students with disabilities to prepare for community employment. This presentation will highlight the partnership with a local school district, public university, employers, and Vocational Rehabilitation. Dakota State University will present on their new program "STRONG". This program provides a comprehensive set of targeted supports and accommodations to assist students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in completing their college degree. These students then graduate with a degree and the skills needed to thrive in their careers and live a contributing, full life. This program has the potential to become a model for all South Dakota regental universities.

Evaluation Summary

9:45 am-11:00 am

General Session

Turning your Demons into Diamond

Spencer Beach

Love is arguably the best emotion we have. I believe anger is the second-best emotion. "Turning Your Demons Into Diamonds" is based on my personal struggles and triumphs and provides a step-by-step plan to turn the negative effects of anger into something extremely positive and motivating. This presentation teaches that individuals can grow from hardship and encourages the audience to leave the past behind while finding new hope for the future. I will finally answer why we all have hardship, where it comes from, and what it is trying to do – the real reason hardship enters our lives. This presentation is structured for people facing all kinds of adversity in their lives: stress, disabilities, chronic pain, severe addictions, depression, or any unwanted event.

Evaluation Summary



NOTES

P R E S E N T E R B I O G R A P H I E S



John Evans was born with profound congenital deafness, is a graduate of the Washington State School for the Deaf, a former beneficiary of the public Vocational Rehabilitation system, and a graduate of Seattle University in Public Administration and Human Resource Development. John's career of 31 years of public service with the State of Washington started as a VR Counselor working with individuals who were deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind. John's career advanced in Business Relations, Affirmative Action Officer, Human Resource Consultant, and Reasonable Accommodation Specialist. John's presentation of real-life experiences will inspire the audience in his accomplishment and success in becoming a business consultant. His presentations will provide valuable information on how to build future business relationships to promote the employment of people with disabilities.

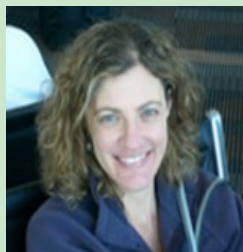
Richard Luecking, Ed.D., recently retired after 28 years as President of TransCen, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving employment success of people with disabilities. During his tenure at TransCen, he was responsible for the implementation of numerous model demonstration and research projects related to school-to-work transition and employment of individuals with disabilities. His professional history also includes serving as a state vocational rehabilitation counselor and the director of non-profit competitive integrated employment service programs. He will be providing us with information on seamless transition services and utilizing career exploration tools so the end results in competitive integrated employment.



Stephen Wooderson was selected as the CEO of Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) on November 1, 2010. Prior to joining CSAVR, he has served at all professional levels in the public vocational rehabilitation program, which gives him a unique perspective of the local, state, and national implications of VR service delivery. He was a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Missouri before becoming the administrator of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, where he oversaw the state VR and independent living programs as well as the disability determination services bureau. He is a certified Dale Carnegie trainer and a retired Army Reserves Lieutenant Colonel. Stephen will be sharing his perspective about how federal policies impact disability services and programs at a national level. He will also be discussing how South Dakota fits into national data trends.

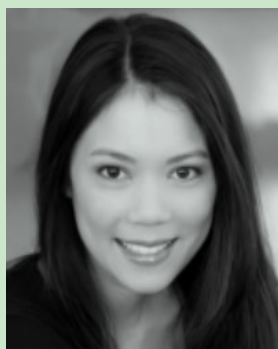


P R E S E N T E R B I O G R A P H I E S



Beth Keeton is the Executive Director of Griffin-Hammis Associates. Currently, she oversees the Certified Business and Technical Assistance (CBTAC) programs administered by the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services. Beth's presentation will provide the audience with techniques on positive behavioral supports, customized job development and self-employment strategies.

Spencer Beach learned that sometimes tragedy chooses you for no reason at all. One day he was at work, then found himself suddenly engulfed in a flash fire. Within 20 seconds, he received third and fourth-degree burns to 90% of his body. "Turning Your Demons Into Diamonds" is based on his personal struggles and triumphs and provides a plan to turn the negative effects of anger into something extremely positive and motivating. His presentation teaches that individuals can grow from hardship, and Spencer will discuss the real reason hardship enters our lives. This presentation is structured for people facing all kinds of adversity in their lives: stress, disabilities, chronic pain, severe addictions, and depression.



Ruth Yeo-Peterman is a training consultant through Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI) that provides professional development training to over 20,000 people each year. Ruth is a licensed mental health counselor in the State of Washington and holds a master's degree in Expressive Therapies and Mental Health Counseling and a bachelor's degree in Communication Science. She has more than 12 years experience working within diverse and challenging environments in both South Africa and the United States, including diversion and rehabilitation, education, youth development, and community-based mental health. Sessions will cover ethics, gender & sexual diversity, and trauma informed practices.

Barry Gravatt graduated with a degree in Political Science from the University of South Dakota. Barry has worked as a case manager in Western South Dakota for the last 33 years. Over the years, he has worked at community support providers, community mental health centers, as well as in adolescent behavioral health and at Job Corp. Since 2014, he has worked on the ASPIRE research project through Black Hills Special Services Co-operative. ASPIRE is part of the PROMISE initiative, the largest research project ever funded by the Department of Education, with over 13,000 participants in 11 states. Through ASPIRE, he provides case management services to low-income transition age youth and their families. He also provides families with benefits planning and financial empowerment resources as a Certified Work Incentives Counselor. In 2017, he participated in the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Financial Literacy and Employment Project as the Region 8 representative. Since then, he has used the Your Money Your Goals tools with students and families as well as presenting on the tools to community partners.



PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES



Linda Lockner's career, spanning over thirty years, has involved serving people through education, employment services, rehabilitation counseling, and vocational assessment. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor who, for the past ten years, has performed vocational assessments through the Career Learning Center of the Black Hills. Prior to coming to the Career Learning Center, Linda worked for South Dakota Department of Labor, State of Utah Rehabilitation Services, and State of South Dakota Rehabilitation Services. She views performing vocational evaluations as the culmination of her learning and experience, resulting in more a calling than a career. Linda earned her bachelor's degree at Dakota Wesleyan University and her master's degree at Northern State University in Aberdeen.

Post-master's coursework has included disability-related topics, such as vocational testing and counseling, and special education. Linda administered her first standardized aptitude battery in the 1980s. Her range has since expanded to a wide variety of measurements of aptitude and achievement, interests, and work values surveys to meet the needs of clients and those referring them.

Ann Fortin works as a certified rehabilitation counselor from the Aberdeen district office; adept in connecting with and guiding her clients towards their goals, using several unique and creative tools and approaches. Ann has engaged in conversations, both at the presenting level, and at the client-counselor level, covering topics such as; advocacy, interest exploration, motivation, labor statistics, disability awareness, social security, service/team coordination, and general case review. Ann actively plays a role in; Project Skills, Project Search, Youth Leadership Forum, and PCT coaching activities in her local DRS office.



Transition Services Liaison Project (TSLP) is a collaborative initiative between Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, and the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services, to assist in improving and enhancing high school transition services for students with disabilities in South Dakota. The project is designed to assist in the continuity of case management through a menu of services and supports as students move from secondary school settings to postsecondary school environments, including employment, community living, post-secondary education and adult agency services and supports. The project consists of four regionally based transition liaisons and one project coordinator that provide technical assistance, training, and resource information to school personnel, vocational rehabilitation counselors, students with disabilities and their families.

Melodee Lane is the administrator of the Department of Labor and Regulation's Labor Market Information Center (LMIC). LMIC collects, analyzes, and provides public information on the labor market of the state. She is charged with ensuring the data LMIC's economic analysts gather from the state's employers through various statistical programs is not only trustworthy and of the highest statistical quality but presented as meaningful and useful information. Melodee's 30+ years in public information roles within LMIC have given her the opportunity to gain extensive knowledge of LMIC's various data sets and how they can be effectively used for many purposes.



P R E S E N T E R B I O G R A P H I E S



Sandy Neyhart is the Program Specialist for the Older Blind Independent Living program with Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI). Sandy has worked in the disability field since 1993 when she was employed by the Department of Education Birth to Three Program before working with SBVI. Sandy learned about a variety of safety issues in home-visiting practices when she was a Social Worker with Child Protection Services in an earlier career after graduating from Northern State University with a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Jennifer Geuther is the Independent Living Program Specialist for the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Jennifer has worked in the disability field for the past 10 years, originally holding a dual caseload as a Senior Rehabilitation Counselor and Rehabilitation Teacher for Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired. She later worked as the VR Program Specialist for DRS before assuming her current role. Jennifer has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Northern State University and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University.



Rebecca Long is the Registered Apprenticeships Program Specialist with the Department of Labor and Regulation. Through the StartTodaySD outreach campaign, DLR provides education, awareness, and technical assistance for individual, businesses, and schools interested in starting a program. Previously, Rebecca was the HR Manager for a home health agency.

Jordan Schuh works for Dakota State University in Madison, SD, as a Student Support Counselor/Autism Specialist. Jordan works with students who have Autism Spectrum Disorder as they seek a degree at DSU. He provides services such as counseling, academic advising, life coaching, structured mentorship, and seminar courses centered around social and career skills. Information on the STRONG program can be found at: <https://dsu.edu/student-life/student-success-center/strong>



Transition Learning Community is a partnership between the Aberdeen Central High School and Northern State University to create a unique program for students who desire independence. The Transition Learning Community (TLC) program is one option available for special education students, 18-21 years old, who want to work toward achieving their post-school outcomes. The college atmosphere, with same-age peers, creates an opportunity to plan a transition to adulthood through continued education, work experience, and leisure experiences.

P R E S E N T E R B I O G R A P H I E S



Dan Richardt is a Sales and Leasing Consultant at Groton Ford in Aberdeen since 2013. Dan obtained his bachelor's degree in Business Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services at Northern State University in 2005. In his spare time, he is also a Lyft driver in the Aberdeen area. Dan will be presenting on Lyft as a self-employment opportunity. Find out if being a Lyft driver is right for you!

Ronda Williams is the Assistant Director of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and has worked in the field of vocational rehabilitation for 18 years. Ronda is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a masters in Rehabilitation Counseling through Utah State University. Her portion of the presentation will focus on how Lyft can be a service provider for individuals with disabilities and how they can utilize Lyft as an affordable option for transportation purposes.



Rhonda Erickson is a Certified Work Incentive Counselor for Black Hills Special Services. She has worked in the human services field for 22 years, the last 6 as a CWIC benefit specialist. Benefit Specialists help people who have a disability navigate the complicated world of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) while being employed. Rhonda covers Minnehaha and Lincoln county in South Dakota and is located in the Sioux Falls Vocational Rehabilitation office.

Carol Ruddell is the Project Director of the ASPIRE (Achieving Success by Promoting Readiness in Education and Employment), a US Department of Education PROMISE Initiative. Previously Carol directed Work Ability Utah, Utah's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant from the US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Prior to joining Work Ability Utah in October 2005, Carol was a teacher for 22 years, working primarily with deaf and blind students in three states. For twelve years, she worked as the Transition Specialist at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind where she coordinated with agencies, local business, and community resources to serve transition-aged youth in school districts across the state.



History of Vocational Rehabilitation

1918 Soldier's Rehabilitation Act

This act created a VR program for disabled veterans that was administered by the Federal Board for Vocational Education. World War I was an impetus for the legislation.

1920 Smith-Fess Act

Also known as the Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act (Public Law 236) and established a civilian VR program under the Federal Board for Vocational Education to be funded on a 50-50 matching basis with the states. Congress provided \$750,000 for the first year and \$1,000,000 the next two years. The federal VR program was not permanent at this time, and Congress needed to periodically vote to reauthorize it.

1935 Social Security Act

As part of the Social Security Act VR was made a permanent federal program. Congress no longer needed to reauthorize it, but instead would need to vote if it were ever to end it. Federal funding was \$2,000,000.

1936 Randolph-Sheppard Act

This act authorized blind individuals to operate vending stands on federal property.

1943 Barden-Lafollette Act

This expanded eligibility for VR services to mentally retarded, psychiatrically handicapped individuals, and for the blind. It also expanded the types of physical restoration services that could be provided to individuals with disabilities, and provided maintenance funds, but both required establishment of financial need.

Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments

1954 Included a major expansion of federal government's involvement with VR and increased the federal share of funding from 50-50 to 3 federal dollars for every 2 state dollars.

1965 This act expanded the federal state funding ratio to 75-25. It also provided for 6 and 18 month extended evaluations to determine if more severely handicapped individuals might benefit from VR services.

1973 This act redirected the VR program making its first priority to serve severely disabled individuals and the development of the Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP) was introduced,

1978 Provided grant funds to support a separate independent living program.

1986 Authorized state rehabilitation agencies to provide supported employment services to individuals with severe disabilities who could not traditionally be placed in competitive employment.

1992 The establishment of Rehabilitation Advisory Councils with the majority of members being individuals with disabilities.

1998 Workforce Investment Act

The act combined VR with other federally supported job training programs to provide a "one-stop delivery system" for people with disabilities to be served by a variety of programs and not strictly dependent on VR. Also increased emphasis on consumer choice by introducing Individual Plans for Employment.

2014 Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act

Designed to strengthen and improve workforce development systems and help Americans with significant barriers into high quality jobs and careers.

See You Next Year at the



***Fall Conference
in Sioux Falls
October 14th-16th***

Have a Safe Drive Home!

